



## Conference Draws Record Numbers!

The Montana Aviation Conference held March 2-4 in Helena proved once again that Montana really is "the last best place". With close to 600 participants, top-notch speakers and a jam-packed exhibit hall, everything went off without a hitch.

Thursday kicked off with a sold out luncheon. The Recreational Aviation Foundation presented Ben and Butch Ryan with an awesome slide show of their life together and a beautiful print as thanks for their donation of an airstrip on their land near West Glacier. The strip rightfully named "Ryan Field" is situated at 3,600 feet on the west slope of the Flathead Range; the airstrip is kept mowed all summer. To schedule your visit to the Ryan property with an RAF board member, visit [www.recreationalaviationfoundation.org](http://www.recreationalaviationfoundation.org) and click on the "directors" button. Any director can make arrangements for you. Keep in mind that this is a bush airstrip, there are tall trees at both ends and squirrely winds can test any pilot's flying skills. A steep stabilized approach is required to set-down in the first third of the 2,500-foot runway.

Lt. Col. Smith of the Montana National Guard then entertained the crowd with his photos and stories on his recent trip to Iraq and also offered some history on the National Guard's facilities in Helena. Lt. Col. Smith was a reminder to us all that we need to support the men and women serving our country. We thank him and his entire battalion for their sacrifice and service to our great country.

Friday Coach Mike Van Diest of Carroll College offered inspirational and humorous words to the participants. Awards and scholarships were then presented to many deserving people. Debbie Alke was very honored to be presented with the National Business Aviation Association's (NBAA) "Silk Scarf Award". Lisa Piccioni, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Paul Smith, Southwest Regional Representative were on hand to present this prestigious award to Debbie. The NBAA Silk Scarf Award is given to individuals for special contributions to the business aviation community during their careers.

Leo Wadekamper presented the Federal Aviation Diamond Certificates of Excellence to Big Sky Airlines, Corporate Air and Merlin Airways all based out of Billings. Montana Pilot Association (MPA) presented Chuck Manning, Kalispell, with the Presidents Award; Byron Bayers, Twin Bridges, Pilot of the Year Award; Mike Korn, Helena, Spark Plug Award; and the Southwest Hangar as Hangar of the Year. The Montana

Antique Airplane Association (MAAA) presented Presidents Awards to Zola and Harold Hamm, Helena; Steve and Cindy Kleimer, Bozeman and Jamie Wierda, Manhattan. They also honored Debbie Alke and Patty Kautz with very nice MAAA personalized jackets for their work during the MAAA fly-in. The Helena Regional Airport was named "Airport of the Year" for their commitment and professionalism in aviation. For those of you who haven't had a chance, you need to check out the new terminal (very nice)! Bob Van Meter, Helena was named "Outstanding Aviation Educator of the Year" for his dedication and commitment to aviation education and for his achievements as a flight instructor and designated pilot examiner in the state of Montana.

Scholarships were also awarded during the luncheon. Those on hand to accept their scholarships were Dillon Martini, Boulder, \$500 Montana Antique Airplane Association Scholarship; Kellan Mills, Polson, \$500 Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) Scholarship; Allison Gollehon, Fairfield, \$250 A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship; and Leanna Taylor, Kalispell \$500 Montana Pilot's Association Junior Pilot of the Year and the \$500, 99's Flight Scholarship. Because of inclement weather and busy schedules, the following were

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*Pictured (l-r) are scholarship recipients Dillon Martini, Kellan Mills, Allison Gollehon and Leanna Taylor.*

# Administrator's Column

**Number twenty-two goes down in history:** Another successful Montana aviation conference is “in the books!” Each year the program continues to grow and intrigue close to 600 aviation enthusiasts. The conference offers something for everyone — from industry meetings to educational and entertaining concurrent sessions, an exhibit hall displaying the latest in aviation goods and services plus keynote speakers, aircraft static display, social time, tour of Helena and its airport, and more. All activities were carefully planned and it all went off without a hitch. The 2006 volunteer host committee did a superb job throughout the past year ensuring all details were covered. Many thanks to the committee for their work and dedication to ensure conference success – Ron Mercer, Chairman; Bill Gallea; Bud Hall; Kerry Johnson; Cindy Kleimer; Marilyn Lewis; Connie Lundin; John Maxness; Rosie Vetter and Jeff Wadekamper. A special thank you to Patty Kautz of the Aeronautics Division for her commitment and coordination both during the event and the past year. And to each member of the Division staff, thanks for all that you do. Next year, we’ll be in Missoula and hope you’re marking your calendars now to join us.

**New and Expanded Air Service:** The past few months you’ve read about reductions in commercial air service to Montana communities. As the carriers continue to adjust schedules, some good news has been released for Montana.

**Billings** travelers headed to Las Vegas will have a new choice beginning March 31 when Allegiant Air begins offering two weekly flights from Billings. The nine-year-old airline focuses on leisure travel, particularly to Vegas and Orlando. It didn’t take long for an air carrier to replace some of the service lost with the January departure of America West. In addition, United Express has announced that Billings will receive seasonal, weekend only, non-stop service to Chicago beginning June 8.

**Bozeman** will be able to take advantage of new seasonal non-stop service between Delta’s largest hub, Atlanta, and Bozeman twice weekly (Wednesday and Sunday) effective June 10. The service will be provided with a Boeing 737-800. United Express will also add seasonal, daily, non-stop service between Chicago and Bozeman effective June 8. **Missoula** will see United Express offering a fourth daily flight to Denver for the summer and will also receive seasonal, weekend only, non-stop service to Chicago. Allegiant Air will also add a third weekly, non-stop flight to Las Vegas. All of these additions enhance the great air service that Montana enjoys. We are very fortunate to have the many carriers and options available across our state to assist with air travel.

**2005 Nall Report:** The AOPA Air Safety Foundation released its 2005 *Joseph T. Nall Report* and shows a historic low for aviation accidents in 2004. According to the report, there were 6.22 total accidents and 1.2 fatal accidents per 100,000 flight hours for 2004. In 2003 the rates were 6.77 and 1.37. The foundation has published the annual report for the past 15 years. During that time, pilot error continues to top the list of accident causes.

**Small Community Air Service Grants:** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has invited communities to apply for grants under a program designed to support small towns and cities working to improve their airline service. The Small Community Air Service Development Program uses federal funds to support communities working to attract or improve air service. Approximately \$10 million will be granted for up to 40 grants to help communities address local air service issues, such as high fares and insufficient service levels. The program is in its fifth year. Applications for grants are due in by April 7. Communities interested can find the DOT’s request for proposal at: <http://dms.dot.gov> docket number OST-2006-23671.



## *Montana and the Sky*

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## Calendar

**March 19** – Rocky Mountain College Open House. 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. includes free lunch. Please call Dan Hargrove, director of aviation (406) 657-1060.

**March 23-25** – 17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Women in Aviation Conference. Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. For further information phone (937) 839-4647.

**April 28-30** – Civil Air Patrol State Conference, Billings. For further information contact Paul Tweden at (406) 252-2578.

**May 27 & 28** – Spotted Bear Work Session.

**June 10** – Lewistown Air Show, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Pancake Breakfast, Experimental Aircraft and Young Eagle rides, Antique Aircraft and Cars. For further information phone Jerry Moline, (406) 350-3264.

**June 24** – North Central Hangar Fly-In, Breakfast and Toy Show, Havre. For further information phone Darren (406) 390-1255 or Bob (406) 265-7394.

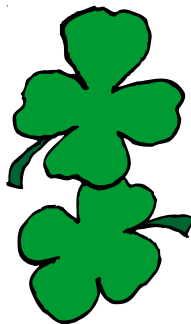
**June 24 & 25** – Meadow Creek Work Session.

**July 14-16** – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

**July 14-16** – Staggerwing Fly-In, Seeley Lake (23S). BBQ Saturday evening July 15 and Pancake Breakfast Sunday morning July 16.

## Administrators column continued....

**Aging Aircraft:** The FAA wants to know all it can about aging aircraft. FAA will conduct a public meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, to “discuss technical issues related to problems associated with the increasing average age of the general aviation fleet.” AOPA will present at the meetings with the goal being to ensure the ‘cure’ is not worse than the problem. AOPA believes that owner education will provide greater, long-term benefits than excessive new regulations. The plan is for all to work together with the FAA, industry, aircraft clubs, and aviation organizations to develop best practices and guides for preventive maintenance for owners. AOPA will urge the FAA to carefully examine manufacturer-supplied data and compare it to operational and service history to ensure manufacturer motives are driven purely by safety concerns.



**May your troubles be less  
And your blessings be more.  
And nothing but happiness  
Come through your door.  
Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!**

## Conference continued....

unable to attend the conference to receive their scholarships: Jason Gibson, Billings, \$300 Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship; Traase Lear, Roundup, \$250 ALOA Scholarship; Tom Kifer, Billings, \$250 Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship; Carrie McGill, Darby, \$500 Montana Pilots Association Flight Training Scholarship; and Russell Leader, Nashua, \$1,000 Parrott Family Scholarship. All very deserving – congratulations!!

Without the support of our many exhibitors and sponsors this conference would not be possible – we thank them for their generous support. A big THANK YOU to our sponsors City Service Valcon/Phillips 66 Aviation; Helena Regional Airport; Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson; Morrison Maierle, Inc.; Potomac Aviation Tech. Corp.; Avmax Montana, Inc.; Edwards Jet Center; Exec Air Montana; Aerotronics Inc.; Alaskan Flight Service Stations; Mead & Hunt; Montana Antique Aircraft Association; Pacific Oil Coolers, Inc.; Robert Peccia & Associates; Sky Tractor Supply; Stelling Engineers, Inc; Big Sky Airlines; Horizon Airlines and Frontier Airlines.

And THANK YOU to our exhibitors - Aerospace Products International; Aerotronics Inc; Aircraft Technical Publishers; Angel Flight West; Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA); Aviall Services, Inc.; Avmax Montana Inc.; Bose Corporation; City Service Valcon/Phillips 66 Aviation; Colorado Classic Aircraft; Crafcro Inc.; Cross Petroleum Service; Croteau Upholsterer at Large; Exec Air Montana; FAA NW Mountain Region Runway Safety; General Aviation News; High Country Agricultural Marketing; High Tech Filters/Facet Filters; Honeywell-Chadwick Systems; Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, Inc.; L-3 Communications; M.A.C. Aircraft Engines & Propellers; MDT Aeronautics Division; Mission Aviation Fellowship; Montana Antique Aircraft Association; Montana Aviation Trades Association; MT Business Capital/Summit Aviation; Montana Pilots Association; Montana Seaplane Pilots Association; Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol; Morrison Maierle Inc.; Mountain Air Insurance Services, Inc.; NOAA – National Weather Service; Northwest Fuel Systems; Northwest Propeller Service, Inc.; Omaha Airplane Supply; Potomac Aviation Tech. Corp.; Recreational Aviation Foundation; Red Eagle Aviation; Regal Aviation Insurance (ID); Rocky Mountain College Aviation; Rocky Mountain Emergency Services; Silver State Helicopters; Stelling Engineers, Inc.; UM – Helena College of Technology; Vaisala; West Air; Western Plains Machinery Co.

Stay tuned next month for more exciting conference news and photos!!



# Another Successful Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic

The Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division hosted its annual Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic (FIRC) over the weekend of February 3 and 4 in Helena. The clinic is sponsored by the Division in order to help facilitate flight instructors from all over the state in fulfilling the requirements of their licenses. FAA regulations require that flight instructors take several hours of up-to-date training (ground only, no flying) at least once every two years in order to keep active their flight instructor certificates. If certificate holders fail to comply with this requirement, it can mean a complete retest, both ground and air, in order to reactivate their certificates. The Division hosts a FIRC at the same time every year in Helena. This FIRC is a relatively low-cost answer to other much more expensive schools and mail-order video classes that are available, and is always well attended.

This year's FIRC instructor was Greg Gorak of GAITS Aviation Seminars, Inc. Greg has instructed the FIRC several times in the past and is one of the "fan favorites" with attendees. Greg is the consummate professional and provides a wealth of information over the two days, and makes the hours just fly by.

FIRC participants engage in one-on-one dialogue with each other concerning the latest topics relating to instruction and flying, as well as rehashing the very basics and principles of aviation. Greg doesn't simply teach topics at the FIRC, he engages the participants to work together as individuals and groups, and Greg's mastery of this type of schooling relates more to a well-orchestrated conductor of material rather than a staunch blackboard teacher. After the seminar was completed and the students refreshed in all the latest and greatest acumen, the class commenced and the participants were given graduation certificates to allow them to keep teaching flight instruction to the students of this state.

Thank you to Jim Cooney and Carol Henry of the Helena Flight Standards Office for their participation in this year's FIRC. Carol issued temporary certificates and Jim presented a safety program to the instructors and was available for questions pertaining to the federal aviation regulations. And thanks again to Mr. Greg Gorak and GAITS Aviation Seminars, Inc. for another fine workshop and seminar!



## Division Purchases New Aircraft!



*The Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division just purchased a 1999 Cessna T206H Stationair. The airplane is immaculate and looks brand new with only 281 hours on the airframe. The T206H will be used for air search and rescue, ELT tracking, Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, airport inspections and other Aeronautics' business. Pictured are Ken Wilhelm, Debbie Alke and Jeanne MacPherson with the new plane!*

# Review of TSA Requirements for Flight Training Providers

On September 20, 2004, an Interim Final Rule entitled *Flight Training for Aliens and Other Designated Individuals; Security Awareness Training for Flight School Employees*, was published in the Federal Register. The rule, which was issued by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA), requires that flight school employees who have direct contact with students (including flight instructors, ground instructors, chief instructors and administrative personnel who have direct contact with students) receive both initial and recurrent security awareness training. (49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1552.23) Flight schools may either choose to use TSA's security awareness training program or develop their own program. If a flight school chooses to develop its own program, the program must adhere to standards in the rule. The TSA program can be found at <http://download.tsa.dhs.gov/fssa/training/>. The training module is also available in a CD-ROM format in limited quantities, which may be obtained by emailing [paul.francis@dhs.gov](mailto:paul.francis@dhs.gov) or by calling the Help Desk at (703) 542-1222. A recurrent training program has been released by TSA and is accessible online at [http://www.tsa.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/recurrent\\_flight\\_school\\_module.pdf](http://www.tsa.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/recurrent_flight_school_module.pdf). It should be noted that the initial and recurrent training programs and requirements are not interchangeable, and one cannot be substituted for the other.

For current employees, initial training should have been completed no later than January 18, 2005. For employees hired after January 18, 2005, initial training must be completed no later than 60 days after the date of hire. As originally written, the rule requires that recurrent training must be provided to employees each year in the same month as the month they received initial training. However, on December 13, 2005, TSA granted an exemption from 49 CFR 1552.23(d)(1) to all flight schools and independent Certified Flight Instructors (CFIs). The flight school or independent CFI may take up to, but no longer than, 18 calendar months from completion of the initial security awareness training course to complete their first recurrent security awareness training. This exemption is subject to the following conditions and limitations:

1. This exemption will remain in effect until January 1, 2007.
2. This exemption applies only to the requirements of the Flight School Security awareness training recurrent training requirement as stated in 49 CFR 1552.23(d)(1).

Another significant requirement of 49 CFR 1552 is that a flight school, or other flight training provider such as an independent CFI, must determine whether an individual is a citizen or national of the United States, or a Department of Defense endorsee, prior to providing flight training to the individual. (Airships, balloons, and gliders are exempt.) Acceptable documents to establish U.S. citizenship or nationality include a valid, unexpired U.S. passport, or an original or government-issued certified birth certificate of the United States, American Samoa, or Swains Island (the birth certificate must be accompanied with a government-issued picture identification of the individual). A list of additional acceptable documents can be found under 49 CFR 1552.3(h)(1). The regulations can be accessed online at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>. Note that the TSA regulations are found under Title 49, whereas **other applicable** FAA regulations come under Title 14.

If the training aircraft has a maximum certificated takeoff weight (MTOW) of 12,500 pounds or less, TSA has interpreted this rule to apply to training which leads to the sport pilot certificate, recreational pilot certificate, private pilot certificate, instrument rating, or multiengine rating. The regulations also apply to all flight training with aircraft whose MTOW is over 12,500 pounds, as well as to employees of aircraft operators that operate under certain FAA regulations (14 CFR 121, 125, 135, and 91K) that require periodic flight training to meet FAA requirements. TSA has stated that the rule does NOT apply to training activity such as a flight review, proficiency check, or other check whose purpose is to review rules, maneuvers, or procedures, or to demonstrate a pilot's existing skills on aircraft with a MTOW of 12,500 pounds or less, such as the flight review required under 14 CFR 61.56 or the recent flight experience requirements in 14 CFR 61.57.

A flight school or flight training provider must keep for a minimum of five years a copy of the documents that are used to prove citizenship **OR** make an endorsement in both the instructor's logbook, or other record used by the instructor to record flight student endorsements, and the student's logbook with the following: ***"I certify that [insert student's name] has presented me a [insert type of document presented, such as a U.S. birth certificate or U.S. passport, and the relevant control or sequential number on the document, if any] establishing that [he or she] is a U.S. citizen or national in accordance with 49 CFR 1552.3(h). [Insert date and instructor's signature and CFI number.]"*** TSA and FAA inspectors have inspection authority to review these records.

For students who are not U.S. citizens or nationals, instructors should refer to the Alien Flight Student Program (AFSP), which can be found at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) under Industry Partners/All TSA Pilots and Programs. Another excellent source of information regarding this subject can be found at [www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org).

For questions on this rule, including the Alien Flight Student Program, please contact the Help Desk at (703) 542-1222. (Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm ET) Online help is also available by sending your question to [AFSP.help@dhs.gov](mailto:AFSP.help@dhs.gov). If you have difficulties getting through to the Help Desk, you may direct your questions to TSA Aviation Security Inspector Tim Martinez at 406-657-6587.

# Memorial Notices

## Douglas Y. Freeman

Douglas Y. Freeman, 78, of Hardin, a loving husband, father and friend passed away January 26, 2006, in the Heritage Acres Nursing Home. He was born on January 10, 1928, in Neligh, Nebraska, to Jesse L. and Christine Young Freeman. He graduated from Neligh High School in 1945. While attending the University of Nebraska Law School, he met the love of his life and future wife, Gladys M. Bygland. The couple married on April 5, 1952, in Albion, Nebraska. In the fall of 1954, the family moved to Hardin, where he worked for Bert Kronmiller, a local attorney. In that time, he was adopted by the Crow Tribe and was called "Chief Good Heart." In the spring of 1965, he ran for Big Horn County Attorney and served two terms from 1966 to 1975. After his last term, he opened his private practice. He was instrumental in a turning point case regarding the Big Horn River controversy between the Crow Tribe and the State of Montana. He practiced law for 51 years. Doug was involved in many community organizations including, the Lion's Club, Kiwanis Club, Shrine Club and the Hardin Community Theater. He was a Past Worshipful Master of Sts. John Lodge #92 AF & AM, and a Past Worthy Patron of the Jasmine Chapter #65, Order of Eastern Star. He was one of the founders of the Big Horn County Historical Museum. He served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Big Horn Livestock Association for 34 years. He was also a member of the "Dixieland Band" and preformed at fund-raisers for different community events. He loved to fly his plane and was a skilled pilot. He was a member of the University of Montana Law School Board, Montana Aeronautics Board and was involved with the Montana Crime Control Board. Doug was an avid sportsman. His other love was watching Nebraska "Big Red" football. His passions and knowledge in life were very diverse. He was a warm, kind hearted and easy-going man, who spoke softly with knowledge. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather to his family. He will be greatly missed by his loved ones and all that he touched.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys; his children, Julie L. Hermsmeyer of Tracy, CA, Jayne C. Lakey of Billings, Doug S. (Lori) Freeman of Missoula and Janet L. Freeman of Seattle, WA; his five grandchildren, Christine, Michelle, Shawn, Matthew and Megan and is great grandchildren Cyrus and Bailey.

## Harold B. Fallis

Harold B. Fallis - November 12, 1931 - February 10, 2006 "He flew with the wings of a plane, and now flies with the wings of an angel." Mr. Harold Fallis of Spruce Grove passed away in Edmonton at the age of 74 years. Harold is survived by his loving wife Delcie; one son, Robert (Cathy); two daughters: Shari Fallis (Brian Vandenberg) and Kim (Andrew) Fallis-Howell; seven grandchildren: Kelsey, Trent and Alanna Fallis,

Tyler and Paige Vandenberg, Kerry and William Howell; one brother, Robert (Sue); two sisters-in-law: Barbara and Elaine Fallis as well as numerous relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Edna; brother Thomas and Harold's twin, Gordon.

## Buster Ness

Buster Ness, lifelong Rudyard resident, passed away on February 23, 2006 at his home in Rudyard, surrounded by his loving family. He died peacefully in his bedroom, the same room where he was born 76 years, 7 months & 6 days earlier.

Buster was born Ferris Hartford Ness on July 17, 1929 at the family farm. He was the youngest of four children born to Swan and Anna (Wiik) Ness. He grew up in Rudyard and received his education there, graduating from R.H.S. in 1947. In the few years that followed, he worked with his family in the construction business at Pasco, Washington.

During the Korean Conflict, Buster enrolled in the U.S. Army and served from 1950-53. He spent most of his enlistment time as paratrooper with Company H of the 503<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment. He had attained the rank of Sergeant at the time of his honorable discharge.

Buster returned to Spokane, Washington where he managed a service station for a while, then began working as a millwright at the Hanford Nuclear Sites near Pasco. In the late 1950's Buster and a Rudyard friend, Robert Rigg, purchased/operated a bowling alley (called "Baghdad Bowl") at Airway Heights near Spokane. In the early 1960's (following the death of his older brother, Bob), Buster returned to Rudyard to work as a spray pilot and help with the family farm. In 1964 he started "Ag Air, Inc.", a successful aerial crop-spraying business which he owned/operated throughout the rest of his life. In addition, Buster was a partner in "Ag Distributors", a business specializing in chemical & fertilizer sales.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1965 Buster married Grace I. Richie in Las Vegas, Nevada. They made their home in Rudyard during their 41 years together. Buster loved airplanes and was a licensed pilot for 50+ years. He was a past president & board member of the Montana Aerial Applicators Association, a member of the National Aerial Applicators, and a member of the Havre Elks. In 1991 he became a founding member of the new Association of Montana Aerial Applicators.

Survivors include his wife, Grace Ness of Rudyard; his children and grandchildren, including daughter Karen Kelly (and husband, John "Bobo") and their 2 children, Elizabeth & Conor, of Anaconda; daughter Amy Carver (and fiancé, Frank Foster) and her 2 children Eric & Amanda, of Bozeman; son Dana Ness (and wife, Courtney) and their daughter, Maren of Rudyard; and his special canine "son" Buddy. Buster is also survived by his sister, Grace Ness of Seattle; a sister-in-law, Joanne Ness of Pasco; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

Our sympathies to the Freeman, Fallis & Ness families.



# Stradley Receives Award for Wildlife Survey Work



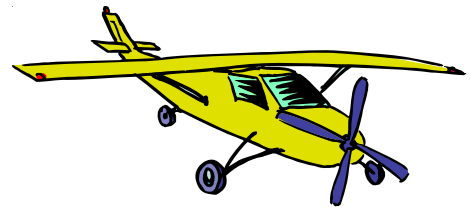
Roger Stradley of Bozeman received the Wildlife Conservation Award from the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society at their annual meeting in Helena February 23. The Wildlife Society is the national professional organization of wildlife biologists and the award was presented to Roger for his many years flying aerial wildlife surveys throughout Montana. Roger's wife, Ann, daughters, Laura and Anna, and his son-in-law, Darren, were present for the award.

Roger has spent a good portion of his career flying for various resource agencies in Montana including Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Yellowstone National Park. He has piloted annual surveys and projects that ranges the gambit of Montana and Rocky Mountain wildlife including elk, deer, waterfowl, grizzlies and wolves. He carries on a tradition and a flight service that was started by his father, the late Jim Stradley, more than 60 years ago.

In his presentation of the award, Chapter President Tom Carlsen spoke about the 25 years he has flown with Roger. "Not many people have a realistic concept of what flying wildlife surveys is about. I don't know how many times people

have asked me if they can go along on my surveys. I explain to them that there is only room for two people in a Super Cub — the pilot and the observer— and that I didn't think Roger would let them fly his plane." Carlsen added that the survey pilot's job is even more complex as not only does he fly the plane but is an integral part of survey work, counting and classifying animals along with the biologist. Numerous other biologists spoke of their experiences flying with Roger and their appreciation for his efforts, knowledge and skill, getting the job done and getting them home safely.

Carlsen concluded by saying that Stradley's professionalism and dedication in helping build and enhance Montana's wildlife is second to none and on behalf of the group, offered his thanks for a job well done, above and beyond. He then asked those present who had flown with Roger to stand and of the assembled group of approximately 100, over 25 people rose to honor Roger.



## Welcome Max!



Max Murphy of Wolf Creek has been selected as the Aeronautics Division's new Aviation Support Officer. Max has been a pilot since 1989 and says, "A good pilot is always a learning pilot." He has his multi-engine ATP along with other ratings and loves flying and everything it involves.

Max is a great addition to our office and one of his goals is to help in making flying simpler and safer for those that fly in the Big Sky Country. Max hopes you all feel as he does, "Any day is a good day when you just think about flying and a great day when you actually get to fly an airplane."

Pictured are (l-r) Max Murphy and Erik Lindbergh at the Saturday evening banquet. Max was thrown into his new duty as head AV person at the conference one week after he started and did an excellent job - we are happy to report we didn't scare him off with that experience!!!

Welcome Max - we look forward to working with you.

# Andrew Bishop Wins \$500 Scholarship

The Association of Montana Aerial Applicators is pleased to announce that the 2006 winner of the Monte Blain Aviation Scholarship is Andrew Bishop of Brady, Montana. Andrew is a junior at Dutton/Brady High School and maintains a 3.9 G.P.A. while participating in football, basketball and track. His motto is, "It's a great day to be alive." Andrew's favorite subjects are math and science. He plans to attend college and major in the math/science field. Aviation is also definitely in his future plans. Andrew is the son of Todd and Tedi Bishop. Congratulations, Andrew, and good luck and clear skies to you!

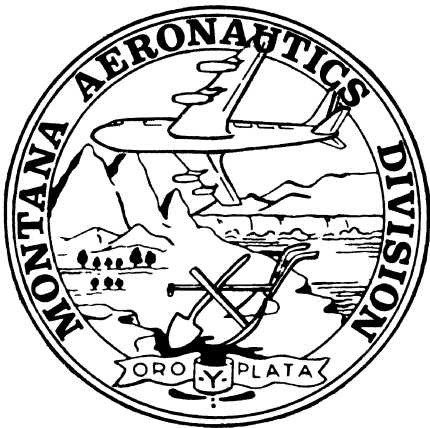


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We have several hats left over from the conference we are selling at the reduced price of - \$5.00 each. If you are interested in buying one, please phone our office at (406) 444-2506. Also, one denim shirt in size large is available for \$25.00.

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